

Disaster Management Dialogue Series
Speakers Biographies

1. Representative of the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)



Dr. B.E. Sithole
Deputy-Director General

Dr. Bongani Elias Sithole is the deputy director general and head of the National Disaster Management Centre. He leads the NDMC after 10 years of successful service as head of the Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management Centre. He served several years in the South African National Defence Force, from firefighting to specialist training to operations. Prior to joining the former Gauteng Department of Human Settlements and Local Government in December 2011, Dr. Sithole had 32 years of experience in disaster management, which includes firefighting and national security affairs, with the South African National Defence Force and the private sector, among others. He is a United Nations accredited trainer in disaster management, humanitarian assistance, civil-military relations and conflict-related issues. Winner of the International Advisory Trail, as best advisor and consultant, in the Netherlands.

2. Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Mr Bongani Matomela
Programme Manager UNDP

Bongani works as a Programme Manager for Governance at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Africa, with responsibility for technical advice and support on strengthening service delivery and democratic governance in South Africa, and in the region. He presently serves a focal point for UNDP in South Africa on matters related to support for disaster management and institutional building efforts, and

in 2022 was part of the UN team that partnered with role-players to provide both humanitarian response to flood affected communities, and institutional support to disaster management authorities in the province of KwaZulu Natal.

3. Representative of the Republic of India

Lt. Colonel S. P. Pandey

Joint Advisor (Capacity Building & Training) from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

4. Representative of the Republic of Bangladesh



His Excellency Noor-E Helal Saifur Rahman

Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of South Africa

H. E. Noor-E. Helal Saifur Rahman is the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of South Africa in September 2020. He is also a member of the Bangladesh Foreign Service and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Assistant Secretary on November 15, 1995. At headquarters, he served in the General Services, Budget, SAARC, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, Public Diplomacy, and Personnel Departments, and as Vice Director of the Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

5. Representative of the Republic of Japan



Prof. Satoru NISHIKAWA
Senior Advisor, JICA

Satoru has a long professional experience in the Japanese Gov't, United Nations, Asian Disaster Reduction Center and Nagoya University, related to disaster reduction, humanitarian affairs and infrastructure planning. At the wake of the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, he coordinated the Japanese Government technical assistance to the affected countries. He hosted and coordinated the 2005 UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction where HFA was adopted. He was a member of the Advisory Group to the UN SRSG for formulating the Sendai Framework.

6. Representative of the Republic of Mozambique



Mr António José Beleza
National Institute of Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD)

Mr António José Beleza, is the Deputy National Director of the National Emergency Operations Centre (CENOE) at the National Institute for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction (INGD), and Coordinator of the Cabinet of the African Union Champion for Disaster Risk Management, His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, as well as Government Seconded Staff to the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC) and active member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC).

7. Representative of the Republic of Germany



Dr Corinna Vigier

BBK - Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance
(Government agency)

Dr Corinna is the head of unit at the Federal Academy for Civil Protection and Civil Defence (BABZ), which is part of the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK). She studied political science and organisational psychology and has more than 15 years of international professional experience in management, analysis, crisis response, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and training/capacity building, including field missions.